SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

To mark the 27th August Revolutionary Day

A tree that has struck roots deep

NO one wants to have to make sacrifices and endure hardships for long. More often than not, in a fight, one works out plans for a blitz success, a lightning victory.

But for a nation like Viet Nam who throughout her four-millenary old history has never enjoyed unalloyed and lasting independence and freedom, the latter is her fondest aspiration which every one of her members cherishes more than his own life. "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," President Ho has said. Independence and freedom was the motivation behind movement after movement, behind the August Revolution whose motto was "Rather make every sacrifice than accept servitude." Since then, for more than a quarter century two generations—in many families three generations—have been following in the footsteps of their elders, striving after the same end. Not that the Vietnamese make no calculations like "For what does one live?" and "For whom does one die?". Nguyen Thai Binh, a Vietnamese graduate from a US university, was not nagged by any doubt about what he had to do: "If one has to make the supreme sacrifice for independence and freedom, millions of one's fellow-countrymen will carry on the battle and win it."

Ignorance- and poverty-stricken and armed with only bamboo sticks, the Vietnamese people fought for nine gruelling years to carry the day last in Dien Bien Phu and secure for the Northern part of their beloved land a place in the sun of South-East Asia. Then sons succeeding fathers, sometimes sons standing in the same ditch as fathers, they have for the last 18 years — twice the duration of the resistance war against French colonialism — successfully confronted four most elaborate war strategies and the most sophisticated war technology of the most truculent world gendarme of all times. During a peak in mobility of US mechanized warfare, the Vietnamese, inspired by the "many a pickle makes a mickle" watchword, crossed the Long Range on foot in early spring 1968 and drove back over half a million GI's onto the defensive in the limited war and eventually triggered their phased pull-out. At the beginning of summer 1972, they rolled back, with unprecedented force, "Vietnamization" to its starting point. Nearly one half of Saigon's 13 divisions, and crack ones at that, have been written off and its pacification program has been irremediably thwarted.

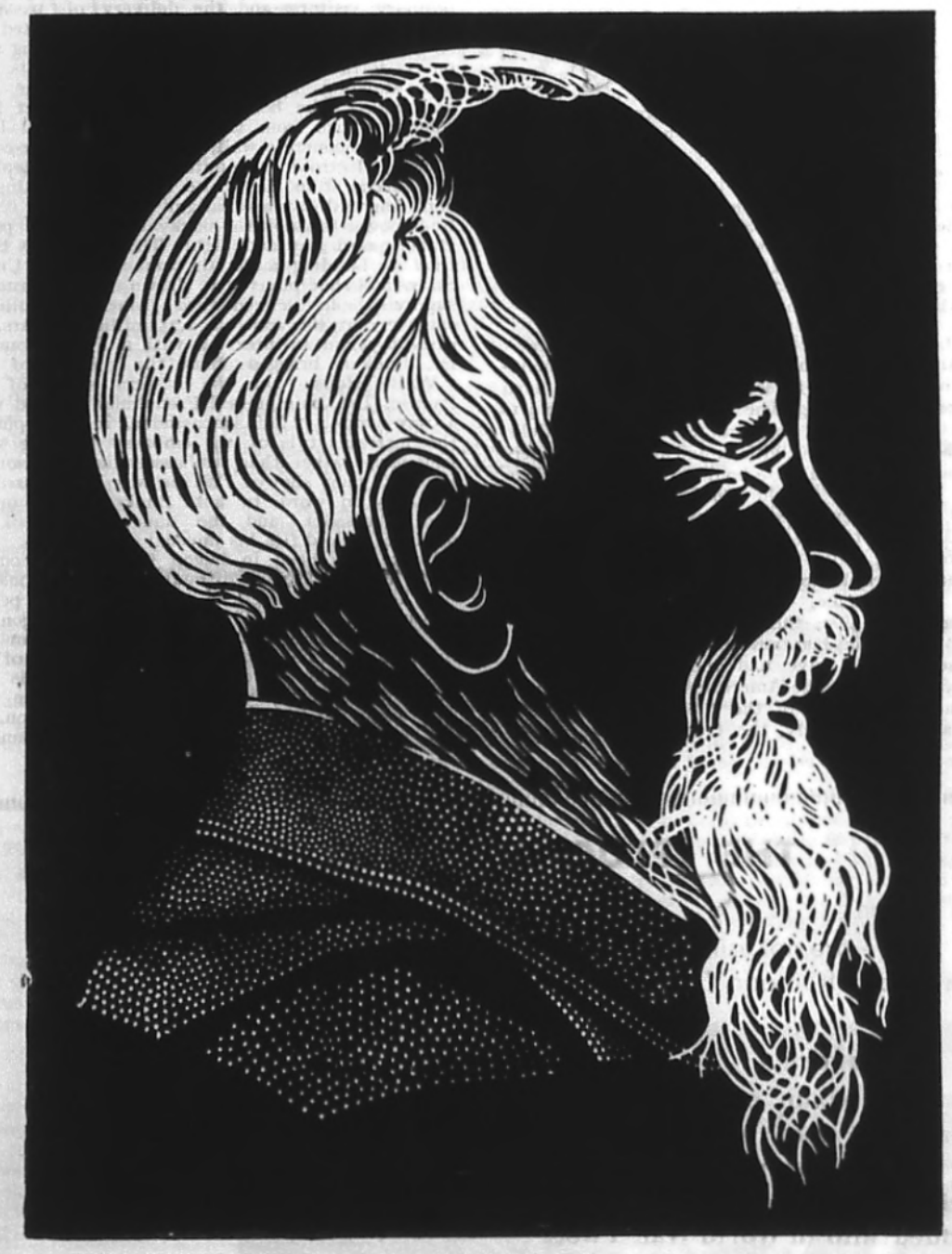
President Nixon has changed Indochina into one battlefield. He has sunk into a bog far deeper and far more extensive than L.B. Johnson. From Kennedy through Johnson to Nixon, US aggression has been foiled in all its strategies and plans.

US intensification and extension of its war has been proportionate to its crimes and setbacks and to the lowering of its image.

Uppermost on the mind of the world public is this question: "When will Mr Nixon definitely make up his mind to disengage the US from this dirty war in the cheapest and most honourable way?" There must be a limit to the infamy of such a brutal and drawn-out killing which has shocked US and universal conscience and sense of justice.

As for the Vietnamese, they are like a tree which has struck roots deep in the soil. The longer the battle continues, the deeper its roots go down. No doubt it will bear luscious fruit. Justice, reason, love and strength are on the indomitable Vietnamese people's side.

SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle



President HO CHI MINH

Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom

in the shadow of the american embassy in Saigon

Editor's note. — *The Nixon administration has been striving to foster the Nguyen Van Thieu regime as a tool for the "Vietnamization" of the war. But no glossy veneer can hide the latter's nature as a traitorous clique, a gang of robbers trading in prostitutes, drugs and war means, a band of political speculators, black-marketeers and embezzlers who have been plundering "aid" funds and the salaries and wages of their own civil servants and soldiers — all this under American protection. The following inquiry by Thanh Nam exposes part of this corrupt and rotten US-puppet regime.*

SAIGON, in early 1972.

Tens of thousands of Honda and Suzuki motorbikes and Mercedes and Datsun sedans of every colour and hue rush along, belching clouds of exhaust fumes which ruin the foliage and flowers of the trees lining the streets.

The 3.6 million people of Saigon live crowded in eleven districts. High-rise US-style buildings of nine, ten, eleven storeys tower insolently in Dong Khanh and Nguyen Hue avenues while along muddy and refuse-strewn alleys in workers' quarters at Chuong Duong, Binh Dong and Cholon whole families are crammed into shanties of thatch, tin and card-board.

The number of Americans in military uniform has decreased a great deal. More and more snack-bars, Turkish-bath establishments and massage parlors catering to the American soldiery are closing down. American military police continue to stalk about, but in dwindling numbers.

And yet, while the war is being "Vietnamized," the American presence remains intact, overwhelming, in this city. It seems to have grown even heavier, more stifling. The scream of American jets keeps coming from the Tan Son Nhut airfield. Crowds of American civilians and air force officers continue to throng Tu Do boulevard. The American hand, the tricks of old Bunker, the desperate moves of President Nixon to avoid checkmate, as well as the histrionics of Thieu, Huong, Khiêm and Co. are still daily topics of discussion for the Saigonese. People talk about the fiasco staring Nixon in the face, the inevitable departure of Nguyen Van Thieu, the collapse of "Vietnamization." For the last seven or eight years, the Saigonese people have had their ears full of the "lofty mission of the Americans" in this country and the "stability" of the "Second Republic." More and more clearly, the truth is appearing to them.

The fortress in the city

Everyone in Saigon knows about the new American fortress embassy, Bunker's residence. The old embassy at the corner of Ham Nghi and Vo Di Nguy streets now serves only for the reception of ordinary visitors and the delivery of passports and visas. The new embassy is white-painted and six storeys high, with a helicopter landing strip on its terrace roof, where a chopper and its pilot are standing by at all hours of the day and night. The box-shaped building is set back some distance from the street, surrounded by a solid ferro-concrete wall, equipped with air-conditioners, electronic computers and a hot telephone line linking it to the White House in Washington, and defended by machinegun nests. It is served by a power-house in the backyard. Military police stand guard day and night. The Americans boast that all building materials came from the United States and that plans were drawn and construction supervised by a renowned American military engineer, at the cost of 2.25 million dollars. In early 1971, in an interview with a French journalist, Bunker bragged about the solidity of this "White House" on the eastern shore of the Pacific. The unimpressed Frenchman replied with a wry smile: "Mr Ambassador, in my opinion, the fortress style of the embassy building suits your name rather than ambassadorial functions." Bunker's face showed that he was not amused by the play on word. In fact, Bunker was no ordinary ambassador and the unusual style of his residence indeed fits his unusual assignment.

Bunker has been in Saigon for six consecutive years. His is the most difficult and dangerous job ever held by an American diplomat in any period of American history. Political circles in Saigon are rife with stories and rumours about the man and the policies he has been pursuing. In spite of his 78 years, Bunker is very fastidious about his clothes, and the expensive *eaux de Cologne* he uses vary according to the season and the occasion. He has been, before his appointment to Saigon, ambassador to Argentina, Italy, India and Nepal.

The American press considers him as a skilful trouble-shooter who shows cold toughness not only to his adversaries but also to his allies. Saigon politicians nickname him The Old Fridge, while the Saigon press has dubbed him the Proconsul. His business is to pull the strings on which Nguyen Van Thieu dances, and he seems to perform it well. Even when the going is hard, he knows how to smooth away the obstacles. For instance he would lower his voice and call Thieu by his name (instead of Mr President) and tell him: "The United States is a great country, but one of her foibles is to lack patience. So you should realize that there are limits to American forbearance." Or he would say bluntly: "This has been decided in Washington. Once our President has taken a decision, there is no turning back." Then the only thing Thieu can do is to shut his mouth and stay quiet. If he doesn't, Bunker will have this clincher: "You know, Mr Thieu, Congress has become rather restive. They might reduce or even cancel some of the aid appropriations..." And that settles it.

The above are part of what the world press calls the tactics of pressure and blackmail, the mainspring of American diplomacy.

In fact, "Fridge" Bunker still has one more trick reserved for when Thieu is really intractable. He would smile and give the latter a gentle tap on the shoulder and say softly: "Mr Thieu, we happen to know that you and Mrs Thieu have some personal financial affairs to settle. We should be glad to help." These comforting words are only said in rare circumstances, and Thieu never fails to report them to Sau, his wife, with joy in his voice. Concrete details are then worked out between a Bunker aide and General Dang Van Quang, security assistant to "President" Thieu and his financial manager. Paltry sums of a few thousand or even a few score thousand dollars can't be haggled about by a "president" personally, can they? When agreement has been reached, a money tranfer would be done in favour of one of Thieu's close relatives by some American under the pretence of settling some debt, to one of the bank accounts of the Thieu family in Berne or Rome. In the budget of the American State Department, nearly three hundred million dollars are earmarked each year for such unholy deals. The dollar is a fundamental tool in American foreign policy.

This does not mean that Bunker's generosity can be easily drawn upon. The richer one is, the more niggardly one is likely to be: such is a feature of his society. Besides, Thieu himself can drive a hard bargain. And so, one sometimes sees Bunker's black Cadillac shuttle back and forth between the American embassy and "Independence Palace", some 700 yards distant. The winner in the end is, of course, Bunker, but Thieu never considers himself a loser when, after the old man's departure, he thrusts a hand into his pocket and feels his billfold.

(To be continued)

THANH NAM

THE PLUCKED HAWK...

Nixon:

"We are not using the great power that could finish off North Viet Nam in an afternoon"

(*July 27, 1972 press conference*)

McGovern:

"Mr Nixon especially stooped beneath the dignity of his office in bragging that 'we could finish off North Viet Nam in an afternoon.' Our moral sense precludes us from wiping out a nation with millions of civilians in a half day, or ever, as Hitler did with towns that offended him in World War Two."

Donald Riegle:

"Since Nixon took office on Jan. 20, 1969, his 'peace plan' had cost America:

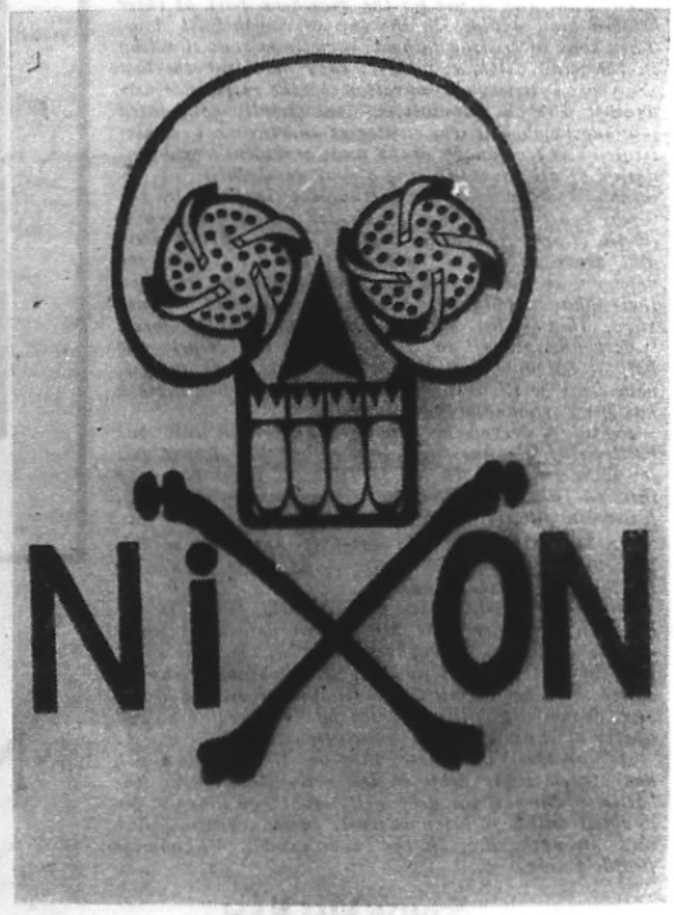
— more than 20,000 American dead

— more than 109,000 American wounded

— seventy more American prisoners of war and 467 missing in action.

— more than 59 billion US dollars

Pres. Nixon has spent almost as much money supposedly winding down the war as former Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson spent in escalating it."



SVN PRG ten-point policy towards newly-liberated areas

THE WHOLE PEOPLE DEFEND REVOLUTIONARY POWER

TO preserve South Viet Nam's immense liberated areas is to safeguard the fruits of the anti-US resistance, the national unity bloc, as well as the lives, property and human dignity of the people... Satisfactory implementation of such a line will help enhance the people's confidence and eagerness in stepping up production and taking part in or serving the fighting.

To this effect, one must firmly punish elements who hatch plots, or indulge in acts of sabotage against the effort of our people in newly-liberated areas. Such a policy falls in with the interests and aspirations of the people. As the vast newly-liberated areas are the immediate rear of the resistance, their preservation is of paramount importance. Those who stubbornly refuse to return to the people's fold and keep on acting as enemy agents against the revolution and people's power, must be severely dealt with. Those who scheme to split the bloc of national unity must be treated likewise. The revolutionary power warmly acclaims and commends those who distinguish themselves with contributions to the building and strengthening of the liberated areas, take an active part in the anti-US resistance for national salvation, vigorously oppose and foil enemy plans and acts of sabotage. Are regarded as illegal all offences against the lives, property and human dignity of the people and all harm to the property of the revolutionary power.

Such a policy is closely associated with the care for the welfare of the people and safeguarding of social and cultural institutions and public utilities.

With a view to staving off their "Vietnamization" total collapse under the impact of the offensives and uprisings of South Viet Nam armed forces and people, the US-Thieu gang recently enforced a number of fascist policies and measures which laid bare their true features. By means of ruthless terrors, they have been endeavouring to loot and scrape up the resources of our people from all walks of life and to draft young men living in areas under their control into their army to die in place of GIs. In nearly all South Vietnamese cities, Nguyen Van Thieu's cruel thugs have been given a free hand to search houses and make arrests which gravely jeopardize the material and moral life of the people. They have forbidden all meetings, muzzled the press, closed down schools and colleges to impress the students and pupils into "self-defence units" and the regular army; they have threatened to jail and kill those who resist their gangster-like behaviour. Such extremely reactionary policies and measures are directed against the patriots and the people still under their sway.

The South Vietnamese people's and armed forces' offensives and uprisings are reaching a high level of fierceness but the US-Thieu gang are still very obdurate, warlike and crafty. They have been instructing their henchmen to try to do with away the gains of revolution. Military operations have been mounted by them in certain localities to loot the people, massacre the civilians and reoccupy freshly freed territories.

But all those deeds will only bring home to revolutionary militants and cadres, fighters and the people there the necessity of defending the revolution and keeping of law and order.

No doubt the revolutionary power is by far superior to the US-Thieu regime. All acts of sabotage of the enemy will certainly be thwarted, for each militant, cadre and citizen of the newly-liberated areas is becoming a vigilant Liberation fighter. Enemy atrocities will be met with due force by our people who, masters of their newly-liberated lands, will exert every effort to defend the achievements of the resistance, zealously protect the revolution, and stand ready to all US-Thieu sabotage and divisive attempts and psywar ploys, so as to build the liberated areas into a steel fortress and contribute to the total defeat of US aggressors and the toppling of the Nguyen Van Thieu quisling administration.

• Reports from the US said that in late June, 21 Vietnamese students in the United States held a demonstration and occupied the consulate of the Saigon administration in San Francisco, California, for six hours. They issued a declaration denouncing US-Thieu all-out efforts to stamp out the drive of the South Viet Nam urban population for peace and democracy. They also urged immediate release of students and other people under detention, Thieu's resignation, dissolution of the repressive machine of the Saigon regime and cessation of all US support for traitor Nguyen Van Thieu.

Earlier, on February 10, 1972, ten Vietnamese students in the US had occupied the Saigon consulate in New York.

Late in April 1972, 15 Vietnamese students went to Illinois University to protest the participation of the "Viet Nam Research Center" there in US criminal aggression in Viet Nam.

• The US paper *Guardian* disclosed on July 12, 1972 some circumstances of the cowardly murder by the Nixon administration and its Saigon agents of the Vietnamese student Nguyen Thai Binh aboard a PANAM Boeing 747 on July 2 last. It made known that this political assassination took place one week after 21 Saigon students went to the Saigon consulate in San Francisco to protest political repression in South Viet Nam. Immediately after this action, Nguyen Thai Binh was ordered to return to Saigon on the ground that his scholarship had terminated. The paper said that during the flight, the pilot secretly passed a pistol to a "passenger" and when the plane landed the former pinioned Binh for the latter to pump five slugs into his chest.

For our beloved Fatherland

The Saigon paper *Dien Tin* (Telegraph) printed on July 6 three photos on its frontpage. The first showed Nguyen Thai Binh arrested by US police while studying in the United States on charge of participating in a demonstration against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam. The second featured US Captain Gene Vaughn entrusted with binding Nguyen Thai Binh's arms for another American named Miler to fire at him. The third picture was that of Mei Yuan, a stewardess on the plane with her statement in Hongkong denouncing part of the US-Thieu plot to dispose of Nguyen Thai Binh. She said: "I saw him shot to death after having his head and arms and feet locked."

• According to reports from London, on July 8 all members of the Vietnamese Students Union in Britain called an extraordinary session to discuss the situation of the country after three months' offensives and uprisings of the liberation forces and people of South Viet Nam and plans to co-ordinate action with the anti-US war of resistance at home.

In a letter sent to their fellow-countrymen at home, they said:

"We are very happy at the tremendous successes which our fellow countrymen throughout the country have been recording during the current wave of offensives and uprisings. At present our countrymen are following them up and progressing toward complete victory over the enemy's 'Vietnamization of the war' plan and recovery of genuine national independence and freedom.

The US aggressors are very stubborn and crafty. They are perpetrating very savage crimes against our people. They are attempting to subdue our people with bombs and shells.

... No matter how vicious they may be and whatever manœuvre they may use, Nixon and his confederates cannot escape humiliating failure.

Though living far from the motherland, we always think of our people at home and sympathize with their sufferings. We pledge to intensify our activities here to help our brothers and sisters at home quicker bring our people's offensives and uprisings to complete victory."

• Reports from Canada said that on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Union of Patriotic Vietnamese Residents in Canada observed a "Viet Nam Week" at McGill University in Montreal, from June 6 to June 11 with diversified activities: exhibitions, film shows, teach-ins, meetings, song and dances performances... Thousands of Canadian friends and Vietnamese students took part in them.

At a reception given by Vietnamese residents in Rabat: Turiqua Rodriguez Locechesdeci, ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Morocco, praises the fighting spirit of the Vietnamese people in their war of resistance to US aggression for national salvation

Guerillas of minority origin prepare new combat position

NEW HIGH IN GUERILLA WARFARE

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ALONG with the 4-month-old wave of offensives on enemy manpower and many military sectors and subsectors on the Quang Tri-Thua Thien, Western Highlands, Central Trung Bo and Eastern Nam Bo battlefields, guerilla warfare has been stepped up in all parts of South Viet Nam, and has substantially helped change the complexion of the war and drive the enemy onto the defensive everywhere.

Its prominent feature has been an intimate combination of military operations, political actions and persuasion works among the Saigon troops in the campaign of "attacks and encirclements" which has resulted in the levelling, surrender or forced evacuation of series of enemy outposts, critical erosion of the enemy's machine of coercion at grassroots level and liberation of new, vast contiguous rural areas, and in the quick disintegration and collapse of the enemy forces. In such areas of high population density as the Mekong Delta and the Central Coastal plains, guerilla warfare has advanced even more vigorously.

In a little more than 20 days in April, the armed forces and people of **Binh Dinh province** won the biggest and most all-sided ever successes. They destroyed or forced the enemy to surrender or abandon nearly 200 outposts and bases, liberated all of Hoai An and Hoai Nhon districts and part of Phu My, Phu Cat, An Nhon and Binh Khe districts with over 150,000 inhabitants. Meanwhile the armed forces and people of Quang Ngai province mounted 3 successive drives, levelling or forcing the evacuation of 54 enemy positions and bases, demolishing 47 strategic hamlets and other detention centres, completely liberating 23 villages stretching from Binh Son to Duc Pho with an over 80,000 population. This newly liberated area forms with the northern part of Binh Dinh province a single extensive stretch.

In **Eastern Nam Bo** and the **Mekong Delta**, guerillas and inhabitants of many villages, like P. (My Tho) and T. (Ca Mau), taking advantage of the opportunity, erased all enemy outposts, swept away the entire enemy coercive forces and seized power into their hands. Guerillas of Hong Dan, Thanh Tri and some other districts and in the U Minh area (Western Nam Bo) through their well-organized campaign of encirclements and attacks and persuasion works among the Saigon troops, blotted out, or brought about the surrender or abandonment of, over 50 outposts. In Dau Tieng district (Eastern Nam Bo) the local people and regional armed forces flattened over 20 enemy outposts and completely liberated 2 adjoining villages.

In **Central Nam Bo**, mounting guerilla warfare has been responsible for the shattering of big chunks of the enemy grip, the liberation of, or recovery of control over, many rural areas including those along enemy key communication lines like Routes 4, 6 and 12, and many large footholds linking many villages and hamlets together and covering thousands of square miles with 1·2 million inhabitants. With the aggregate sting of the three-prong tactics, hundreds of thousands of people rose up and joined the armed forces in putting thousands of enemy outposts under constant siege and pressure, razing to the ground, or forcing the surrender or abandonment of nearly 200 posts, punishing nearly 200 diehards, reforming 1,600 others, liberating an additional 112 hamlets and villages with 200,000 inhabitants, and extending the people's power to more than 200 other hamlets. Tens of thousands of families impounded in detention areas or strategic hamlets returned to their native villages. In varied forms, agitation among enemy troops accelerated their disintegration. Tens of officers and men of the enemy occupation forces in various localities left their units during this 4-month period. In only 50 days (April 4 – May 30) in Central Trung Bo, 31,000 Saigon officers and armymen deserted. In April and May, close to 6,000 soldiers of various regular units and 1,700 members of the popular self-defence forces in Central Nam Bo went awol, or crossed over to the revolutionary side bringing along many weapons and large quantities of munitions.

In only 4 days, the Saigon 21st Division alone reported the disaffection of over 900 of its officers and men before they were sent to the Binh Long front on rescue missions. In April, 260 officers and men belonging to various regular and security force units in Ba Ria-Long Khanh vanished. The figure included dozens of cadets of the Thu Duc Officers' Training School, many armoured troops and even the whole of a marine company.

Stemming from the high tide of popular armed uprisings, guerilla warfare has devised many imaginative tactics: ambushing or raiding enemy troops, using popular pressure to force them to surrender, or bringing home to them the justice of the revolutionary cause to enlighten and persuade them to break away, stage revolts, liquidate thugs, destroy outposts, smash the quislings' grip and cross over to the people's side.

With their omnipresence in their localities, guerillas always hit at the most vicious thugs and die-hards, the strong arms of the US-Thieu clique in the implementation of their rural pacification program. The more guerilla warfare progressed, the more this potential was brought into play, thereby wearing out or wiping out more enemy manpower. Along with agitation work among adverse men, this created an overall offensive posture that helped achieve ever greater gains.

While playing a positive part in enlarging the liberated zone, guerilla warfare has also been pushed up behind the enemy lines, harassing major enemy strongholds in the cities and provincial and district capitals, striking hard at enemy bases, logistic compounds, military airfield and nerve organs of the Saigon administration and at the same time making enemy overland routes and waterways constantly unsafe and keeping the enemy rear in a constant turmoil and disarray.

In the **Thua Thien-Hue** sector, while Saigon regular troops were sent out to try to blunt the PLAF offensive at My Chanh and along Route 12, guerillas and regional troops of Phong Dien, Quang Dien, Huong Tra, Huong Thuy, Phu Vang and Phu Loc districts, launched powerful onsets behind the enemy lines. They have brought heavy pressure to bear on the enemy supply lines. Particularly, the railway between Da Nang and Hue has been made inoperative since May this year.

Guerillas and regional troops have made relentless ground and shelling attacks on enemy strongholds at Phu Bai, Tay Loc and Hue city, destroying a large amount of enemy manpower and military depots. Most dramatic was the surprise raid on the sanctuaries of cruel agents at Da Bac. The guerillas and regional troops scored a direct hit, cutting down nearly 150 of them. In the past 4 months, to say nothing of the successes obtained by the Liberation army, guerillas and regional troops together with the people in the Thua Thien-Hue sector wiped out, captured, or caused the disbandment of, nearly 5,000 enemy troops in the main force, security forces, civil guard and reconnaissance patrol units, shot down 7 aircraft, blew up 17 bridges, destroying many military vehicles, storage depots and other enemy war means.

In the **Western Highlands, Central and Southern Trung Bo, Eastern Nam Bo** and the **Mekong Delta**, guerilla warfare has also been fast spreading in the enemy rear and right in his strongholds. In feats at Cam Ranh and Vung Tau ports, at Da Nang, Go Quao, Nuoc Man, Dong Ba Thin, Bien Hoa, Can Tho and Vinh Long airfields, along Highways 1, 14, 19, 21, 20, 13, 22 and 4, on the Saigon, Long Tau, Vam Co, Giong Trom and Cai Lon rivers and on the Nguyen Van Tiep, Duong Van Duong and other canals, guerillas destroyed hundreds of aircraft and thousands of military vehicles, sank hundreds of war vessels, destroyed tens of thousands of tons of munitions and fuel and put out of action an important amount of enemy manpower.

Guerilla warfare brought into play its combat methods which consist in pitting small units against adverse big-sized units, in hitting at the enemy's most vulnerable spots. Successive blows in the enemy rear provided effective support for the political struggle of the urban population, closely coordinated with the major battles fought by the main force units and made possible the destruction of the enemy forces and extension of the liberated zone.

Parallel with the step-up of its combat activities, guerilla warfare has made a new headway in the build-up of its strength. In the past 4 months, many localities have witnessed a rapid increase in the numerical strength of village or hamlet guerillas and in their fighting quality. Guerilla warfare has thus been able to develop allsidedly, creating very favourable conditions for the successful accomplishment of its main task which is to completely foil the US rural pacification program.

As a result, a swift change has been brought to the war situation and the balance of forces between the patriots and the enemy on the South Viet Nam battlefield, especially at village and hamlet levels has been tilted to the great advantage of the revolution.

In many places, the enemy "people's self-defence" forces have been almost dissolved or neutralized, while the civil guards and the militia, due to their heavy casualties, their disintegration or their merger into regular units, have been emasculated both quantitatively and qualitatively. Enemy mobile forces have been wiped out by whole units while the remainder have been pinned down in a number of key theatres of operation, and thus their support power for permanent occupation forces has been curtailed. In many places, it is virtually non-existent.

The US imperialists have had to acknowledge that their pacification program has failed bitterly after desperate attempts to conceal the truth.

In the flush of its successes and taking advantage of the present favourable juncture, guerilla warfare in South Viet Nam is well in a position to bring into play its inexhaustible strength and move towards complete victory over US-Thieu "pacification" and "Vietnamization."

Fighting in close coordination with Liberation Army men, guerillas of village V. (Quang Tri) assault enemy troops

Nothing is happier than seeing President Ho's portrait again after nearly 2 decades under US-puppet rule

Golden hearts

IF from Cua Viet you gaze at Route I twelve miles away, nothing hinders your view. Of the 102 hamlets of Gio Linh district, all covered with lush banana, lemon, jack and bamboo trees, just four remain with sparse topless bushes here and there. The land, literally levelled, has turned grey. Sixty thousand people were herded into so-called "new life hamlets" where they lived sardine-packed in corrugated-iron roof-houses which resemble match boxes put side by side. The 12,000 inhabitants of Tan Tuong hamlet were resettled on an area of 1.5 by 0.6 mile. Three to seven rows of barbed wires surrounded it. Coming in and going out, the inmates had to show plastic identity cards. The daily rice and salt ration had to be brought every day. Stocking was prohibited, and trespassing punished under the "supply the Viet Cong" charge. Twice every month they should attend classes at offices of the local authorities on the "screening for Viet Cong" theme. There existed detention rooms, hammers to beat finger tips, iron shackled, casks filled with sudo and other torture instruments as well as gallows.

After nightfall, everyone should stay at home and mines made village lanes dangerous. Suppose a dog happened to run on one of the mines and was killed. The owner of the beast would be fined 30 to 50 piastres. Informers, "pacification cadres" and policemen would by turns irrupt into hamlets and search for underground shelters hiding guerillas and militants. It occurred that the number of thugs involved in such raids exceeded that of the inhabitants. Certain hamlets counted as many as five or six garrisons which kept close watch over the population. People exchanged greetings by winking at one another, avoiding to speak in groups of two or three not to be accused of conspiring against the government. To isolate the people from the revolution was one of the ultimate aims of the enemy's pacification program, which had never been achieved. In the darkest nights of terror in South Viet Nam, the people's loyalty remained unshakeable.

We met comrade Quang, a cadre of Trieu Phong district which had experienced unending pacification operations. In some hamlets the people had to rebuild their dwellings no less than six times. In fact, the new homes were jerry-built huts since nobody had the heart to make them permanent. In one village the number of impressed youths ran as high as 1,200, or a ratio of one out of 5 inhabitants. Quang said:

"Our district is located near the sea, far from the mountains and during the rainy season it looks like a frying pan full of water. Then they come with forks to probe for undergrounds day and night on the remaining dry mounds of sand. The flood season is the best time of the year for their undertaking!"

"One family managed however to shelter a grassroots militant for three straight years," Quang went on. "One cadre got out of his shelter after liberation with white hair at less than forty. Comrade T., a district cadre, was wounded in the chest and belly. People did their best to him and have him attended. Loyal hearts are to be counted by the dozens of thousands."

We visited Granny Chap. She lived in so straightened circumstances that the sale of all her belongings would not get her a coffin in case. Fellow-villagers who loved her so much had donated her 1.6 ounces of gold in all for the purpose*.

But the old lady was reluctant to use the precious gift for herself. She sold it out bit by bit and with the money she bought food and medicines for militants and guerillas. When she had only two-tenths of an ounce left, she was afraid her generous neighbours might query why she had not got her coffin and the enemy might grow suspicious. So she sold what remained of the gold and her last two water jars to buy a cheap coffin for her and some rice for cadres. The ruffians who got wind of what she had done arrested her. They stamped on her breasts and poured soap water mixed with chilli powder into her mouth and her nose. It was the 13th time she had been apprehended and tortured but she refused to speak. Fed up, they had to set her free.

Back again in her hamlet, Granny Chap went on with her activity.

The day we called on her we saw several militants who had received help from her before liberation. Together they reckoned that by walking 3,000 feet a day on an average, in 26 years she had covered a distance five times as long as the length of Viet Nam. Shaking her head, she interrupted the visitors:

"Well, what I did was not much. So long as the Yanks and Thieu remain in control I have to go on doing my job."

At Q. I asked Miss Gio why as 15 she had dared to accept so dangerous, so responsible a job in an occupied area.

"What I did for the revolution was nothing," she replied most naturally.

Together with other fellow-villagers, she supported a whole collective of revolutionary militants during four years in one of the most raided areas in the South. She was arrested and put to torture three times. Never did she say anything likely to betray secret shelters or catering devices. At 19 she was thin and pale as a result of atrocities.

Gio's father was killed in a pacification operation when she was 14. Her mother died some time later. Enemy agents discovered a hiding place and took out a militant. After shooting him dead they ordered his body be left where it was. Gio's mother tried to remove and bury it somewhere else. Hardly had she touched it when a grenade planted underneath exploded... Since then the girl resolved to follow in the footsteps of her father and mother.

In two different situations, two generations are bound by the same love for the Fatherland, the same dedication to the revolution, which is a source of strength for newly-liberated Quang Tri.

HONG KHANH

* *In Viet Nam countryside, it is a custom to keep a coffin ready when there is an old ager in the family*

VESTIGES OF KINGS HUNG PERIOD IN NGHE AN

DESPITE stepped-up US bombing, the Archaeological Institute has been continuing its program of excavations in former Zone 4 for vestiges of the old Vietnamese civilization dating back to the nation-founding time. In Nghe An province, it has obtained promising results. In Hai Vai forest (Dien Chau district) were discovered vases and jars in shapes and designs reminiscent of the Phung Nguyen civilization that ushered in the Kings Hung period, 4,000-3,5000 years ago. In highland districts inhabited by the Muong nationality, were found several ancient brass drums, 2nd type (characterized by bodies linked with supports and heads overlapping flanks with statues of toads on them). This new find confirms a recent scientific thesis on relationship between this kind of drum and the *Dong Son* drum (or 1st type drum), representative of the ancient Vietnamese civilization. This recent thesis holds that the later drum was made not in South China, during the Chinese occupation of Viet Nam, but in the Muong-populated area extending from Vinh Phu (Thanh Son district) to Nghe An-Quang Binh, and at an earlier date. It was a local product, and appeared only a little later than its *Dong Son* counterpart under the Kings Hung.

In June last, cadres of the Archaeological Institute and the Cultural Service of Nghe An province again discovered at a hydraulic work site at Lang Vac (Nghia Dan district) a large archaeological spot connected with the Dong Son civilization, at its most brilliant stage under the Kings Hung, about 25 centuries ago. It is one of the largest of its kind so far, extending over nearly two miles and covering an area initially estimated at some hundreds of thousands of square yards. A mere dig on 100 yards enabled the researchers to collect a large amount of historical and cultural relics of great value. There are for instance tombs covered — as it has established — with huge slabs of stone, and in which were buried objects of special value, either for their rarety or for their novelty. They include ceramics of various shapes and sizes (some are 28 inches high and 12 inches wide), knives, war hatchets, spear-heads, plough shares, ornaments like bracelets, ear-rings, stone beads, etc. Mention must also be made of brass containers of various sizes in forms and patterns typical of the Dong Son civilization. In one of the smaller tombs recently excavated, were collected four 1st types brass drums, one of which having a diameter of 25 inches and a height of 11 inches, which give a better idea of the military equipment of ancient Viet Nam.

The new archaeological site is important in many respects : the relics found there are plentiful, rare and fine, the place itself is large and contains many things of great value. It is there that traces of the Dong Son southernmost civilization can be found so far. The local character of the relics is beyond doubt, there is not the slightest trace of Northern civilization, and so the thesis of the existence of a southern border for the Kingdom of Van Lang at the Deo Ngang Pass finds a convincing confirmation in this Lang Vac archaeological site.

Meanwhile in the highlands of Nghe An whole series of caves with traces of ancient men were also uncovered. The Archaeological Institute has organized digs of two of them, one at Con Cuong and one at Tan Ky. In both places were found objects typical of the Hoa Binh civilization, such as agrieultural tools obtained by breaking stones on both sides. They must have come into existence about 10,000 years ago, at a time when man was about to develop agriculture... The scientific significance of these relics lies in the fact that they belonged to the initial stage of the Hoa Binh civilization. It is for the first time not only in our country, but also in the whole of South East Asia, that they were unearthed. Kitchen middens of the new stone age dating back to about 6,000 years, and found in Quynh Luu district a few years ago, opened up prospects for the study in Nghe An not only of a period of history 4,000 years long, but also of a whole cultural process spanning from the stone age to the threshold of history.

Bronze jewels in the Kings Hung period unearthed at Vac village, Nghia Dan district, Nghe An province

VIET NAM IN THE HEARTS OF GENUINE US ARTISTS

AMIDST Nixon's war escalation in Viet Nam and his universally condemned crimes many a progressive American has reserved a niche in his heart for vietnamese people's just struggle. Among these honest Americans are quite a number of well-known artists like Jane Fonda, Barbara Dane, Peter Segher, Joan Baer, Arthur Miller, Rita Martinson, Dick Grigori, etc.

Early in July, Jane Fonda, a 1972 Oscar-winner, came to Viet Nam for a visit at the invitation of the Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with the American People. For many years now, the name of the actress has been closely associated with the anti-war movement in the United States. From November to the end of December last, she and a group of 25 other progressive American artists gave many antiwar performances in Manila and many other cities in the Philippines where there are American military bases, and in many places in Japan. In the latter country, the troupe staged many satirical plays and many songs lampooning the US aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina as a whole, and exposing the tricks with which US rulers get their war dividends. To urge American servicemen to protest the costly war Nixon is pursuing in Viet Nam, they sang "Revolution," "Liberation and "Save Our Men." Shows were given in Yokosuka in the southern suburb of Tokyo, in the township of Okinawa, in Kobe, near the Cadena USAF base, in Ishikawa, and at the Fusa theatre within a mere 900 feet of the Yokota USAF base. After the Fusa performance, the troupe went to the airbase to talk to the GI's there, pressing them to demand the Nixon administration to stop the war and get US troops home.

"My life has changed over the past few years," Fonda declared upon her arrival in Hanoi, "because of my recognizing the hypocrisy and criminality of a succession of US governments particularly with regard to Viet Nam. Along with tens of thousands of other Americans of all ages and classes, this new consciousness was awakened by the Vietnamese people. Your struggle, courage, culture has forced us to recognize certain truths about our country and what will be necessary to change it... I come to Viet Nam as a comrade."

In her tour of North Viet Nam, Jane Fonda saw with her own eyes many of the crimes committed by Nixon, and, on many occasions, spoke out fearlessly against them, and urged American soldiers to think over their acts. To her pride, and to the pride of many other American anti-war artists, her candid statements have greatly embarrassed C. Bray, the State Department spokesman, and have prompted reactionary Republican Representative F. Thompson to ask the Justice Department to charge her with "treason."

It is still remembered that in February this year Jane Fonda was among the 150-member American delegation to the World Conference for Peace and Independence of the Indochinese Peoples held in Versailles. The delegation included Rita Martinson, a black playwright and composer from Los Angeles, who, together with 9 other artists (5 black and 4 white) had formed a theatrical company and toured the length and width of the United States to stage progressive plays. According to her opposition to the US aggression in Viet Nam and opposition to racism in which women head the list of victims are closely related and, as such, must become an everyday political issue and must arrest the attention of everybody.

Rita's troupe has toured all the cities in the United States and the Philippines where US troops are garrisoned, and some 60,000 GI's have seen its antiwar shows.

There is also folk singer Peter Segher, an active member of the American antiwar movement. A native of New York, this 56-year-old artist has joined in virtually all the drives ever launched within that movement. With a guitar or a banjo he has sung his own songs at many American bases and bars, rousing American soldiers to antiwar action. His songs, though brief (a demand for peace, for an end to the war, the withdrawal of troops), are truly captivating. During a demonstration in Washington in 1969, as soon as he started singing an antiwar song it was taken up by all the 800,000 participants. In 1971, again in a meeting in Washington, his "Last Train to Nuremberg" was chorused by the 500,000 protesters. Peter has visited over 30 countries in the world, and everywhere he was lionized with his famous antiwar songs. He made a trip to North Viet Nam early this year.

In addition to Jane Fonda, Rita Martinson and Peter Segher, there are many other progressive American artists on the side of the Vietnamese. Take Carol Feraci of Los Angeles. She was among a group of entertainers at a White House party on January 28, 1972. As preparations were being made for the first item, she put up a placard reading "Stop the Killing." And, turning to Nixon and his wife, she called out "You go to Church on Sunday and pray to Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ were in this room tonight you would not dare to drop another bomb." To newsmen she said she felt it a moral obligation to take the opportunity to protest against "this war."

Songs and plays are not the only protest means of progressive American artists. Top singer Judy Collins on May 24, 1972 joined 150 other prominent Americans including scientists, writers and journalists in a petition, which was handed to the House Speaker to request the Congress to vote an immediate end to US military operations in Indochina and to cut all appropriations for such operations.

The list of genuine American artists, staunch supporters of the people of Viet Nam, of course, does not end here.

So, thanks, Jane. Thanks, Peter. Thank you all, dear friends.

CHU LANG

Here and there...

The Sour Grapes

The US-Saigon regime clamoured that they would re-occupy Quang Tri before June 19, ARVN Army day.

After June 19, came an official announcement: the operation was essentially aimed at wiping out adverse forces. As for the occupation of Quang Tri it was out of question for the time being.

Then another: Quang Tri would be retaken before July 13, date of the resumption of the Paris talks.

After July 13, this communiqué was released: Quang Tri actually is not an important military objective. It is but a provincial capital now reduced to rubble by US bombs and bullets. It is at present of a psychological interest only.

Alas! The grapes were too sour.

The Ballyhoo

A psychological interest! A clever idea indeed! Shouldn't quit so soon.

And then one day history has it that it was exactly July 25 the spokesman of the Saigon command, echoed by American agencies *AP* and *UPI* from Saigon, let it be known to everyone that "today 400 paras have occupied the heart of Quang Tri, thereby putting an end to the nearly three-month-old Communist control over this city. The paras, supported by reinforcements met with surprisingly weak resistance."

AP was more specific: This morning at 10 hours 20 minutes, 400 South Vietnamese paras occupied Quang Tri citadel. Fierce fighting continued to rage in the sector.

The government (Saigon) troops were able, it added, to occupy only the eastern half of the old fortress.

By 2 hours GMT, *UPI* reported, 250 paras had penetrated Quang Tri citadel without meeting with any resistance. The whole citadel has fallen into the hands of the Saigon troops.

The Crux of the Matter

Well! It is a bit awkward, all this conflicting reporting. These damned "allies," sometimes they behave like candid friends, don't they? They should be more careful next time!

But it doesn't matter whether it was 10 hours 20 or 2 hours GMT, whether there were 400 or 250 paras, whether fighting was fierce or not, whether the VC resistance was weak or non-existent, whether one half of the whole of Quang Tri citadel was recaptured. Those are details which may sometimes vary.

One thing is certain: Quang Tri has been retaken. No one contests this fact. That's the crux of the matter.

But not later than on the evening of the same historic day of July 25, Lieutenant-Colonel Do Quang Bo, a staff officer of the command of the 1rst Army Corps based in Hue, told a *Reuter* correspondent: "Allied air force is now trying to cut a long breach in the citadel to open the way for the forthcoming assault. There is still much to be done before the decisive offensive on this citadel can be launched."

He should have kept his mouth shut, that bl... colonel! And so should that d... scoop artist!

The Flag

And this is what happened outside Quang Tri citadel on the historic July 25, a very nice plot for would-be dramatists:

In the air, a chopper crowded with "US advisors," Saigon commanding officers, newsmen, cameramen... ready to record the hoisting down below of the Saigon flag over the citadel and listening intently to the following surface-to-air dialogue:

— Hello! Hurry up, sonny! The reward has been raised to four million piastres. Did you get me? Four million.

— I got you. I'm hurrying up.

— Try to bring back some booty. For the exhibition.

— I'll do my best.

— Hello! Hello! Do you hear me? How come it's so long? Go ahead!

— But the chap who is carrying the pole...

— Has been cut down, hasn't he? Damn it! Get another staff, anything that can serve as a pole. Ah! This damned interference!

— ....

Silence.

The *AP* and *UPI* and the Manila broadcasting on July 27 and 28 about the withdrawal of the Saigon paras gave this detail: A para trying to climb on the citalel to fly the Saigon flag over it was quickly knocked down by an enemy bullet.

That's all.

In the Wings

For script writers not very satisfied with such a laconic plot, I may provide some snatches of conversation (always on the radio) monitored without the interlocutors' (258th Marine Brigade commander and General Du Quoc Dong) knowledge.

— But General, we don't see any paras in the citadel.

— Er ... er... They told me they have entered it though.

— We don't see any of them. We are not going to assume the responsibility for a relief outside the citadel. We thought it was going to be one inside, not outside.

— Well, well, as for this, please refer to General Ngo Quang Truong.

Now the talk was between Red Berets and Blue Berets on the battlefield:

— Hey, boys, are you already inside the citadel?

— Who told you we are? the Red Berets are completely exhausted.

— So are the Blue Berets.

— The boys are fed up. The brass keep prodding us. We are doing our utmost.

— There is a star waiting for you, of course. But before getting inside the citadel, we'd better make our wills.

Now between Blue Berets themselves:

— I think we are done for. We'll have to relieve them outside the citadel and to get inside it!

— Who told you to operate the relief outside?

Now between Red Berets themselves:

— Are you thinking of the four-million prize?

— I'm thinking of going back to Saigon.

— So am I. I don't want to bell the cat in Quang Tri.

HUONG NAM

in brief ⊙ in brief ⊙ in brief

o Soviet Union:

During the "Month of Friendship and Solidarity with the Vietnamese People's Struggle Against US Aggression," people of all walks of life throughout the Soviet Union have taken an active part in meetings and other activities. Especially money collections have been widespread. Many workers contribute 5 roubles each month to the "Support Viet Nam" funds. Some old agers have donated a great portion of their pensions. Many production units and teams of various enterprises and State farms readily worked overtime to raise funds for Viet Nam. In the first half of 1972, workers at the Gorki Car Factory collected a total of 100,000 roubles in a similar drive.

o Denmark:

Two groups of American residents in Denmark jointly sponsored on the night of July 26 a meeting with the participation of many crew members of the "Enterprise" aircraft-carrier and 3 destroyers moored at Copenhagen port. The organizers distributed copies of the 7-point program of the PRG of the RSVN and of a communiqué denouncing the crimes recently perpetrated by the US imperialists in North Viet Nam, made public on July 18, 1972 by the "Commission for Investigation of US Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam."

o G.D.R:

The "Week of Solidarity and Friendship with the Vietnamese People" beginning July 20 has ended in success with nearly 30 major meetings and demonstrations staged in several places of the country together with other actions.

The rally which opened the week took place in Berlin with 300,000 participants. Speaking on this occasion, A. Norden, Politbureau member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, stigmatized the US imperialists' atrocities in Viet Nam, praised the Vietnamese people's legitimate and heroic fight, and reiterated the GDR Party, Government and people's unswerving support for the Vietnamese.

The movement of money collection and blood donation has spread to the whole country. Since 1965, people in the GDR have contributed 265 million marks to the "Support Viet Nam" funds. The "Black Pump" Chemical Plant alone has donated over 2,000 gallons of blood and 2.6 million marks. During the solidarity week alone, workers at the Erfurt Electronic Appliances Enterprise collected 28,000 marks.

o Algeria:

All employees at the water company gave Viet Nam one day pay, or a total of 17,977 dinars. Together with the sum, a message was sent to the Vietnamese reading: "This is only a very little contribution, which shows the Algerian workers and people's profound appreciation of the great sacrifices of the heroic Vietnamese people now fighting against the US imperialist aggressors. They always identify themselves with the Vietnamese struggle for national independence and freedom till complete victory."

Earlier, all the personnel of the water conservancy branch also presented Viet Nam with 43,000 dinars, the total of one day wages.

o Uganda:

On July 30, 1972, while receiving the new US Ambassador's credentials, President Idi Amine declared: "It is really a shame that such a 'super power' as the US assaults at such a small country as North Viet Nam. Everybody is quite aware that the US has been defeated in Viet Nam, but it still refuses to face this fact." The Ugandian President demanded immediate withdrawal of all American troops from Viet Nam.

o India:

Anti-US and pro-Viet Nam meetings have been recently called in New Delhi and many other places of the country. In Trivandrum, capital of Kerala, a rally was organized with an over 2,500 attendance including representatives of 52 youth and students organizations from 41 Asian, African, Latin American and European countries to the International Seminar on "the economic, social and cultural consequences of the US imperialists' aid to developing countries."

At the meeting, the President of the All-India Youth Federation handed to the President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth 10,000 rupees, a sum collected by youth and students organizations throughout India in the past period for the building in Viet Nam of a pediatric hospital named after Nguyen Van Troi.

VIET NAM–CUBA
unidos venceran

(South Viet Nam — Cuba communiqué)

WHILE on a visit to Cuba the Delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam headed by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, held formal talks with Major Fidel Castro, First Secretary of the Communist Party and Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, and with other Party and State leaders. A communiqué was issued which read in part as follows:

"ON behalf of the Communist Party, the Revolutionary Goverment and people of Cuba, Major Fidel Castro warmly welcomed the brilliant successes of the people of both South and North Viet Nam in their struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, especially those scored on the military, political and diplomatic fronts by the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. The Prime Minister of the Cuban Government congratulated the Delegation on the strategic gains of the people and liberation armed forces in the current offensives and uprisings on the South Viet Nam battlefield, and extolled their revolutionary heroism, the preparedness and winning posture. Major Fidel Castro reaffirmed the absolute confidence of the leadership of the revolution and people of Cuba in the final triumph of the Vietnamese people's just cause.

The Cuban side voiced deep admiration for President Ho Chi Minh's great nation, for the millions of men and women, young and old, in South and North Viet Nam — who, with their resistance against US aggression, have recorded the name of their fatherland in humanity's history of great battles for man's sake and their nation's rights.

The Party and the Revolutionary Government of Cuba reaffirmed that the international problem which now focusses world attention is Viet Nam, that at the present juncture Viet Nam is the highest test of internationalism and marxist-leninist principles, and resolutely maintaining the position of the Cuban people to stand ready to uphold the just cause of the Vietnamese people in all fields. With this in mind, Cuba reiterated its moral political and material solidarity and support along with the other socialist countries, with peace- and justice-loving governments, with all world progressive forces, including wide segments of the American people opposing the US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

The two parties insisted that the United States stop its aggressive war against the South Vietnamese people, end the Vietnamization program, terminate all extermination bombings on the liberated areas, and bring to an immediate end repression, arrests and killing of civilians in South Viet Nam.

The two parties held that the only avenue to a political solution of the Viet Nam war is a halt to US unjust and immoral intervention in Viet Nam, and US acceptance of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam's seven-point plan whose two key points have been elaborated on. To this effect, first and foremost the Nixon administration should immediately fix a definite time-limit for the total withdrawal of American troops, advisers, military personnel, arms and war equipment from South Viet Nam; it should stop the bombing and shelling of the two zones of Viet Nam by its air force and navy, really respect the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and let down the quisling Nguyen Van Thieu regime who should resign forwith. In addition, the Saigon administration should give up its repressive, terroristic policy against the people and pave the way for the formation of a government of national concord comprising three parties. This government will be responsible for the holding of really democratic and free general elections in South Viet Nam. The two parties urged that the United States enter into serious negotiations at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and respond positively to the legitimate and reasonable claims of the Vietnamese people.

The South Vietnamese side fully approved the line of the Republic of Cuba against the United States and for the safeguarding of its national independence and sovereignty, aimed at thwarting US imperialism's blockading and isolating policy; it reaffirmed its sympathy and total support for Cuba's revolutionary position in its anti-US efforts and socialist construction; it backed all the necessary measures that Cuba had put into effect to check every anti-Cuban policy of the US imperialist government...

The South Vietnamese side warmly praised the lofty internationalism of the Cuban people who have accorded wholehearted and disinterested support to the national liberation movement of the Asian peoples fighting against inperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism...

On behalf of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese Delegation sincerely thanked the Communist Party, the Revolutionary Government and the heroic people of Cuba for their tremendous support, unconditional aid to and generous solidarity with, the Vietnamese, and regarded it as a source of great inspiration and encouragement for the South Vietnamese people to march ahead and bring their just cause to final victory.

The representatives of the Communist Party and Government of Cuba, of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam expressed their firm conviction that the objectives of the two peoples which are resisting US imperialism and engaged in the peaceful construction of their countries will be surely attained in a brilliant manner with the staunch backing of the socialist and peace-loving countries the world over."

The third world
in effervescence

THAILAND

In the first 4 months of 1972, the Thai patriotic armed forces and people frustrated the "encircling and mopping-up" operation of the Thanom-Praphas clique against Phitsanuloke, Phetchabun and Loei provinces, by knocking out over 830 troops and police agents, downing or damaging 40 aircraft of various types and destroying 10 military vehicles. In the same period, a series of coordinated offensives were mounted in several parts of the country, causing extreme concern in Bangkok. In April alone, more than 120 Bangkok soldiers and police were killed or wounded, and 4 posts levelled.

THE PHILIPPINES

A mayor and a policeman paid for their crimes against the people on April 25 when patriotic armed forces broke into a city in the south of the country.

DOFFAR

In the last ten days of April 1972, the people's liberation army attacked without respite British colonialist troops and mercenaries, inflicting on them 75 casualties including two British officers, bringing down 2 aircraft and wrecking many artillery pieces and military equipment of the enemy.

In the battle on April 22 in an area west of the country, two British officers and 33 mercenary soldiers killed after only an hour of fierce fighting.

MOZAMBIQUE

The patriotic armed forces' February and April 1972 violent attacks caused to the Portuguese colonialists heavy losses: 210 men killed, 1 aircraft knocked down and a military train destroyed.

From February to May, the patriotic armed forces in Niassa and Cabo Delgado provinces wiped out 130 colonialist troops, blasted to pieces 12 military vehicles, shot down or destroyed 2 aircraft and overran 5 adverse posts.

ECUADOR

4,000 students held on May 29 a meeting in memory of their mates murdered by the authorities 3 years ago during a demonstration against the US for educational reforms. The participants shouted "US go home," and then paraded to the cemetery where they laid wreaths on the fallen students' graves.

URUGUAY

Teachers, workers and office employees met on June 8, 1972 to protest against the signing with the "Pan-America Development Bank" of an agreement on loans and technical assistance which ran counter to the people's interests.

On the previous day, the teachers also staged a 24-hour protest strike.

Also on June 8, students in Montevideo paraded against the proclamation of the "state of civil war" directed against the progressives. The protesters set fire to 10 cars and planted iron stakes on the road to block police assaults.

COUNTRIES IN THE CARRIBEAN SEA AREA

An extraordinary conference was held by 15 countries in the area in the capital of the Dominican Republic from June 5 to 9 to discuss questions related to their sea.

The assembly unanimously adopted the "Santo Domingo Statement" which made clear that they will defend their complete sovereignty not only over their mainland but also over their 200-mile territorial waters. The participating countries also voted without a dissenting voice against US "observership" at the meeting.

Last year, many Latin American countries including Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Panama, put up a resolute fight to defend their sovereignty over their 200-mill territorial waters. In Ecuador alone, 25 US fishing ships were seized for having violated her waters in the first 5 months of this year.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION